

THE Christian History;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival
of Religion in *England* *Scotland* and *America*.

Saturday DECEMBER 24. 1743. § N°. 43.

As GOD has been pleased in his sovereign Providence to remove from us by Death, the Reverend & Excellent Mr. COOPER; who was an eminent Instrument and Promoter of the late Revival of Religion, as well as a principal Encourager of the Design of this Paper: it is a Pleasure to us, that we have an Opportunity to pay a small Tribute to his Memory, by giving the following Account of him a Place in this Paper.

ON Tuesday Morning the 13th Instant, died in the 50th Year of his Age, after a few Days Illness of an *Apsopatrick Paralytick Disorder*, the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM COOPER, one of the Pastors of the Town, to the inexpressible Grief of his VENERABLE Colleague the Rev. Dr. COLMAN, those of his immediate Charge, and indeed of all thro' the Town and Land, who have a Savour for experimental Religion, and know how to prize the godly Man, and the faithful Minister.

The GOD of the Spirits of all Flesh peculiarly form'd and fitted him for the large Sphere in which he mov'd. His natural Powers were strong and lively: He was of an active Genius, and a leading Spirit. *It pleased GOD early to call him by his Grace.* From his very Childhood, by the Blessing of GOD on a careful religious Education, there appeared the Dispositions of real Piety, and at length the Grace of GOD was visibly seen by all that saw and convers'd with him to rule and govern and reign in his Heart; whence his careful observing Friends rais'd their Expectations of extensive Servi-
ccableness

ceableness from him in his Day and Generation. He early devoted himself, by the Will of GOD, to his Service in the Ministry of his dear SON, and indeed he seem'd a Nazarite and separated from his Mother's Womb: His preparatory Studies at the College, and while he resided in Town afterwards, were attended with Diligence, sanctified by Prayer, and bless'd with a Proficiency in useful & valuable Knowledge, especially in divine Things, upon which his Heart was most set, and to which he made all his other Acquisitions happily subservient.

With the Advice of the ablest Divines in the Town in the Year 1715, he appear'd publickly in the Desk; and an agreeable Thing it was to them, and to all his Friends, to see their largest Expectations from him answered, if not exceeded, he appearing at once a Master of the Gift and Art of Preaching. This soon fix'd the Eye and Heart of the Church of CHRIST in Brattlestreet upon him, and with all convenient Speed they proceeded with great Unanimity, to chuse him Co-Pastor and Colleague.

At Mr. COOPER'S Motion and Request the Ordination was defer'd for a Twelve-Month, in which he preach'd but once a Fortnight, the Church generously providing for the Pulpit on the intervening Sabbaths. When the Year came about on May 23d 1716, he was solemnly separated to the Work of the Ministry. And a memorable Day indeed it was, in which they received a rich and a precious Gift of the ascended SAVIOUR. From which Time, we are to consider him as beginning his Course, the Ministry he had received of the LORD JESUS. He hath ever since for now above twenty-seven Years together with his honoured surviving Colleague, been serving as a Son with a Father. And he has given abundant Proof of his encreasing ministerial Gifts and Graces before all the Churches in the Town and through the Land. Like the Sun dispensing Light and Heat, going on gradually in a steady, regular Course, and in its Progress encreasing its benign Influences, 'till it brings on the perfect Day; so he ran his Course strongly and steadily with encreasing Vigour, Zeal and Activity, till he arriv'd to his Meridian; and e'er the Decline began, we are depriv'd of him as it were in the Midst of his Years, the Vigour of his Age.

He was a Scribe well instructed to the Kingdom of GOD, thoroughly furnish'd and ready upon all Occasions to every good Work. He was well establish'd in the fundamental Doctrines

Doctrines of the Gospel, the only Religion of fallen Man ; and contended earnestly for the Faith once delivered to the Saints, and with a Zeal according to Knowledge.

His Preaching took in Doctrine and Precept, Grace and Duty. He constantly laid the Foundation well in doctrinal Truths, establishing every Precept of the Gospel on its proper Basis, and enforcing it with the divinest Motives.

His Sermons were far from loose empty Harrangues, they were all well digested, solid, rational and instructive, warm and pathetical. The Method perfectly just and regular, the Language plain, familiar and scriptural, avoiding the Extremes of enticing Words of Man's Wisdom, and vulgar groveling Expressions. He had an uncommon Talent at explaining and enforcing the sublimest Truths of the Gospel, and making them familiar to the meanest Capacity, while at the same Time, the most Wise and Judicious were edified and quickened. In Prayer he was equal'd by few, and perhaps excell'd by none, being ever ready upon all Occasions to address the Throne of Grace, with a Variety of suitable Expressions and Pleadings, chiefly drawn from Scripture. He had a commanding Voice, and an agreeable Accent, his Elocution grave, solemn and majestic, and he visibly spake under an awful Sense of the Majesty of that God, in whose Presence he stood, whose Messages he delivered, and the vast Importance of them. *He was mighty in the Scriptures ; and being fervent in Spirit, he spake and taught diligently the Things of the Lord, and mightily convinc'd his Hearers.*

As a Pastor, he was faithful, laborious, vigilant and compassionate. In his private Applications to Souls (and Multitudes resorted to him in the late remarkable Day of divine Visitation) he was an Interpreter, a Messenger one among a Thousand. His Labours were not confin'd within his own Flock, but were earnestly coveted by other Flocks in the Town ; so that there was scarce a Sabbath but he preached both Parts of the Day, besides his frequent Preaching on the Lectures, which have of late been multiplied among us.

And he preach'd to happy Purposes : God greatly own'd and honour'd him in his Work ; making him a spiritual Father to many, who now rise up and call him blessed, and they will doubtless be his Joy and Crown in the Day of CHRIST.

He was nobly courageous in the Cause of Christ, it being his chief Ambition to approve himself to Him, and he has abundantly

dantly evidenced how little he regarded the Praise or Dispraise of Men, where he tho't the Honour of Christ concern'd, and the Operations of the Holy Spirit among us of late not duly regarded.

View him in private Life, the Gentleman and the Christian met in him; he was courteous and affable to all Men, cheerful and pleasant in Conversation, and desirable in every Relation as a CONSORT, PARENT, MASTER and FRIEND.

He was had in great Esteem by his Brethren in the Ministry throughout the Provinces, the Elder of whom lov'd him as a Brother, and the Younger of them reverenced him as a Father. Scarce any Minister among us had the more general Esteem and Love of his Country; and in the Year 1737, he was chosen by the Reverend Corporation, President of Harvard College; but when the Vote was presented to the Honourable and Reverend Board of Overseers, he excus'd himself that honourable Trust; yea his Name has of late Years been had in great Honour in SCOTLAND and ENGLAND, and several Divines of the first Rank have sought his Correspondence. In short, all that knew him will number him among the best and most useful Divines among us.

His Death was sudden and unexpected to his Friends, but we have Reason to think, not to himself: Near thirty Years ago, and at Times ever since, he often spake of his Expectations of an early Death, "the most of his Father's Family dying he used to say before fifty, and he very lately said to several at different Times that Dr. COLMAN would live to bury him."

Upon the surprizing Alarm given his Church of his sudden violent Seizure on the Lord's-Day, they immediately determin'd to seperate the Day following for solemn Prayer and Humiliation, and to implore of GOD the Continuance of so useful and valuable a Life. The Ministers of the Town readily gave their Assistance, and graciously assisted they were, in leading in the Devotions of a large and deeply affected Assembly both Parts of the Day; *Prayers and Supplications were offer'd up with strong Crying and Tears to him that was able to save.* But the sovereign GOD had determin'd to call him off from his Work to his Reward.

Tho' the Nature of his Illness was such as in a great Measure to deprive him of the Use of Speech and Reason, yet he had his lucid Intervals, and was enabled expressly to declare on the Sabbath Evening, "That he rejoiced in GOD his Saviour".

Saviour." And in the Night to signify by lifting up the Hand, upon Questions being propos'd to him, " That he " freely and chearfully resign'd his Spirit into the Hands of " CHRIST, where he had often committed it: And that he " could leave his dying Testimony to the Ways of GOD." That " he had the Peace of GOD that passeth all Under- " standing, and the Hopes of entring on the Recompence of " Reward".

The Remains of this excellent Man of God were attended to the Grave on the Thursday Evening by a numerous Train of hearty Mourners of all Orders and every Denomination.

THE MEMORY OF THE JUST IS BLESSED.

Sic Mibi contingat vivere, sicq; Mori.

The Account above was drawn by a Rev. Minister in Boston, at the Desire and with the Revise of the venerable Dr. COLMAN. And on this Occasion we would observe, that as the Rev. Mr. COOPER greatly rejoiced in the late remarkable Revival of Religion among us, declaring that since the Year 1740, more People had sometim's come to him in Concern about their Souls in one Week's Time than in the whole twenty four Years of his preceeding Ministry; so he told us he intended to draw up for our Christian History, a summary Account of so much of this Revival as he had been a Witness of. But as his unexpected Death has unhappily hindred the Publick of this desirable Performance; we would take Occasion humbly to intreat those OTHER MINISTERS who are willing to give us Accounts, to hasten them, for the further Glory of the divine Power and Grace and Entertainment of the Pious.

*Continuation of Mr. Robe's Narrative.
An Account of this good Work in Congregations to the
Northward of Glasgow, since October last.*

At KILSYTH.

THE observable State of Things in this Congregation, during the Months of November, December and January, was, that those who had been awakned, but had attained to no desired Outgate, continued to make Progress, and to profit by the use of the outward and ordinary Means of Grace, especially the younger Sort whose Progress was very sensible. They who appeared to have received the LORD

JESUS

JESUSCHRIST, continued to all outward Appearance to walk in him, and to grow in Grace, and in the Knowledge of our LORD JESUSCHRIST, as they continue through Grace to do unto this Day, *March 26. 1743.*

There are not above two or three of them known to me, whom I have had Reason to rebuke for any Thing amiss in their Walk. Many of them came frequently to me these Months, and since, with Fears and Doubts about their spiritual State: Some of their Doubts and Fears arose from their feeling Vanity of Mind, wandering of their Hearts in the Time of holy Duties, evil Thoughts, Hardness of Heart, and other inward Corruptions; so that they complained that they were worse and wickeder than ever they found themselves to be before; not considering that formerly they were dead, but now they had Life and Feeling; that formerly they were Darkness, and now they were Light in the LORD. Others complained of their Want of Love to CHRIST, and of spiritual Deadness, because lively Motions of their Affections were abated. Some of these wanted to know by what Marks and Signs they might know that they loved our LORD JESUSCHRIST in Sincerity. Others were afraid, and jealous that their *Faith* might not be of the right Sort, and lest they should deceive themselves. Many of them complained much of Atheistical Thoughts, blasphemous Injections, as it were inward Diswafions from Prayer, and other holy Duties, and other Sorts of the fiery Darts of the wicked one.

The *Societies for Prayer* continued and increased, so that at present they are above *twenty-two*, which meet once in the *Fortnight*, once in the *Week*, and some of them oftner. The outward Reformation of the Congregation continues. And during these Months mentioned, there was great Diligence in Attendance upon Gospel-Ordinances, and great Appearance of Seriousnes and Concern in Hearing, without any considerable Outcry. There were few or none newly awakened known to me these Months, tho' I find since that there were, but were able to conceal themselves for a Time; only there were some few in and about the Town of Kilfyth, then and since, to the Number of *twenty-three*, who associated themselves for Prayer, and of themselves; I hope it shall issue well with some of them, thro' the tender Mercy of the MOST HIGH, tho' there are Grounds of Fear as to others.

Since the *Beginning of February* the Operations of the HOLY

HOLY SPIRIT have been again more sensible, both as to the awakening of secure Sinners, and reviving these formerly converted.--- All or most of the Societies of the Congregation set apart *Tuesday the eighth of February*, for *Thanksgiving* to the GOD and FATHER of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, for this surprising and unlooked for Appearance of his Grace, in so many Congregations of this backslidden Church and Land, and for *Prayer* that it may be general, through the Length and Breadth of the Land.--- There was also transmitted to us, a *Memorial* from the *Societies for Prayer*, at *Edinburgh*, inviting the praying Societies in this Congregation, and the Congregations about, to join with them upon the 18th Day of *February*, in *Thanksgiving and Prayer* to GOD, upon the forefaid Account. [See *Christian-Hitory*. page 87.]

This Congregation kept the said Day congregationally. The Rev. Mr. *Robert Spears* Minister of the Gospel at *Linhilgown*, assisting me in the publick Work, when there was a very great Concern in the Congregation.--- And *Mr. Spears* and I, had much to do in the *Evening*, in conversing with these under Distress, who had as yet got no Out-gate: As also with several of those, who had got an Escape thro' Grace; but were under great Distress at the Time, tho' various Temptations. The *Societies for Prayer* met at *Night*; the Societies in the Congregations about, kept this Day, or some Part of it. The *Minister* of *Kirkintilloch*, preach'd upon the *Thursday*, being the 17th, and I think the Societies of that Parish met upon the said Day.

I remark this more particularly, to manifest and set forth, the Glory and Praise of our GOD, who is the Hearer of Prayer, and who hath been gracious to us at the Voice of our Cry, for his SON, and for his holy Name's Sake. The Month of *February*, having been the *most remarkable* Month, for the Presence of the *Lord* among us, not only in this Congregation, but some others about, of any since *October* last.--- From *Sabbath the thirteenth* to *Sabbath the twentieth* of *February*, there were *ten* awakened either altogether new, or such upon whom their first Awakening had long since come to nothing; since which there have been about *eight* with me, most of them *under fourteen*.--- All this besides *thirteen* young *Boys*, who had associated themselves for *Prayer*, without any desiring them, and who are since taken under such Notice, as is needful for them. --- *Last Month and this*, hath also been a

Time

Time of reviving, strengthening, and confirming to former Christians, and of relieving some of the late Converts from their Distresses.--- Of all this I have good Documents, some of which shall be given upon the Article of Reviving in this *Narrative*, if the **Lord** permit.

There are at this Time near *seventy*, if not above, who are *young Ones*, from *eight* to *eighteen* or thereby, who meet in Societies twice a Week, most of them, and spend the Time in *Prayer*, singing some Part of a *Psalm*, reading the *Scriptures*, and repeating their *Catechism*. They are at least once a Week under the Inspection and Direction of some elder Christian, who meets with them.

I received a Letter about two Weeks ago, directed to them, from an *English Gentlewoman*, who is Author of the Letter to the *Negroes converted in America*. It is so good, and may be so encouraging, and useful to all such *young Ones*, who set themselves to seek the **Lord**, That I give it a Place here.

To the dear young Lambs in KILSYTH, that are seeking after CHRIST, a Friend of theirs sendeth Greeting : Wishing all Salvation thro' the SAVIOUR's Name.

My dear little Children,

WITH Joy I received an Account from the dear Servant of CHRIST, your honoured Minister Mr. *Robe*, that the **Lord** has inclined your Hearts to seek after him, that the great Shepherd is gathering you with his Arm, that some of you are carried in his Bosom ; and that some of you who are got in to CHRIST, are distressed at Times, with the feeling of indwelling Sin, and Fears about your Interest in God, and Acceptance with him on that Account.

And unto you my dear Children, *who are seeking after JESUS, and have not yet sensibly found him whom your Souls love* ; to you let me say, *Follow on to know the Lord, and you shall know him*.--- You were born Sinners : *guilty and filthy you were in your first Father Adam* ; you sinned in, and fell with him in his first Transgression. And as his degenerate Off-spring, you were conceived in Sin, and shapen in Iniquity, and came into the World with a sinful Nature, all over defiled from Head to Foot, with Hearts full of Enmity against God, and bent to backslide from him : And you have gone astray, even from the Womb : And the righteous Law of God curseth every Transgressor, and the Wages of Sin is Death : And while Souls abide in their natural State they are in apparent Danger of God's eternal Vengeance.

(To be continued.)